

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 04284

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : MILI, TW
SUBJECT : PRESS REPORTS ON SALE OF KFIR TO ROC

1. CHINESE AND ENGLISH CHINESE NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN HEAVY COVERAGE TO PRESS REPORTS FROM US AND ISRAEL CONCERNING AN ALLEGED U.S. GOVERNMENT DECISION TO PERMIT ISRAEL TO SELL KFIR JETS TO THE ROC. REPORTS ARE SOURCED TO AP (WASHINGTON, JULY 5) AND REUTERS (NEW YORK, JULY 4; TEL AVIV, JULY 5).

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMING US WHAT U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE SAID OR ARE PLANNING TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT. (NOTE: ONE CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT HAS HODDING CARTER CONFIRMING TO NEWSMAN THAT THE U.S. TAKES "APPROVAL ATTITUDE" TOWARDS ISRAEL'S SALE OF KFIR TO ROC; REFERENCE IS ALSO MADE TO MONDALE-BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.)

3. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN QUERIED BY THE GROC ON THIS STORY, BUT IN PREVIOUS, RECENT CONTACTS KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THE KFIR PROPOSAL WAS DEAD AS FAR AS THE GROC IS CONCERNED BECAUSE OF STRONG SAUDI OPPOSITION, THE PROBLEMATIC PARTS SITUATION, AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBILITY OF BLOCKED DELIVERY IN CASE OF A MIDEAST CONFLICT. THEREFORE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING WHAT USG DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AND WHAT DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS. GIVEN WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE GROC POSITION WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ADVICE AS TO HOW TO REPLY TO GROC QUERIES ABOUT WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN OR WILL BE SAID BY U.S.

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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